

MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581

(508) 792-7270 x 165

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer's Name, Address, and Phone:

Arthur Haines
Woodlot Alternatives, Inc,
122 Main St., Number 3
Topsham, ME 04086

(Site discovered by John Lortie)

Species Scientific Name:

Equisetum variegatum

NHESP Element Occurrence Number (if known):

Observation Date:

22 June 1999

Today's Date:

23 June 1999

LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

a) USGS Quad Name and Series (7.5"x7.5" or 7.5"x15"): Pittsfield East (1:25,000)

County: Berkshire

Town: Pittsfield

b) Directions to location of observations (please attach USGS map):

Open field behind Elm Street Car Wash and Samel's, south side of East Branch Housatonic River, upstream of Elm Street Bridge, near west end of field, on north side of clump of Cottonwood saplings (western on 2 clumps), in a depression in field.

Approximate UTM coordinates - 4700630N - 0644720E

c) Habitat: (plant communities, associated vegetation, physical characteristics, geological features, surrounding land use.

Are other rare species present?)

Anthropogenic field, much of it wet in spring and with hydrophytic vegetation, growing with *Equisetum arvense*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Salix eriocephala*, *Lolium arundinaceum*, *Oxyclea sensibilis*, *Solidago altissima*, *Carex vulpinoidea*, and *Carex normalis*.

POPULATION INFORMATION:

Population found? (Y/N):

If No, is population presumed extirpated and why?

If Yes,

Number of mature plants: Approximately 1000

Number of immature plants: unknown

Number of plants age unknown:

Population area (give unit of measurement):

5 x 3 meters

Percent of population:

in leaf: 30%

in bud:

in flower: sparse cones (new and old) 70% of stems

with immature fruit:

mature fruit:

senescent:

Observations of floral visitors, fruit dispersers:

none observed (nor would any be expected).

Vigor of individuals and population:

Apparently vigorous

Evidence of expansion or decline:

None observed

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years?

Please give details:

NO

SITE PHYSIOGRAPHY

Elevation:

Topographic position (crest, upper slope, mid slope, lower slope, bottom?):

Aspect (north, south, east, west, flat?):

Flat

Slope (0-20) degrees, 20-45 degrees, 45-75 degrees, vertical?):

Light (open, filtered, shade?):

Largely open, but some taller herbs offer shade.

Moisture (inundated, wet, mesic, dry, xeric?):

Spring Summer

Soil types: unknown

Surficial rock types (with percent of ground covered):

None

Bedrock/parent material: *unknow*

Surficial water (distance away and source):

Housatonic River, ca. 50-75 meters

MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

MNHESP Site Name (if any):

Managed Area (if any): *NO*

Comments/Management recommendations:

Disturbance or threats (natural or unnatural) to population:

- changes to hydrology, grading/excavation

Land Owner's Name, Address, and Phone:

Ownership Comments:

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE (EO) SUMMARY

(Circle one choice in each category)

EO Quality

How representative is this occurrence? Consider the size and

population size, locality or vigor of the individuals.

A - Excellent B - Good **C - Marginal** D - Poor

Comments: Population relatively small for this species, and occupying a small area.

EO Condition

Is the habitat supporting the EO pristine or degraded? Is there a potential for the habitat to recover from disturbances?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal **D - Poor**

Comments: habitat is entirely converted from hardwood floodplain to an open field with a high proportion of non-native species. However, this species normally occurs in disturbed areas (ditches, cuts, excavated banks, etc.).

EO Viability

What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality?

A - Excellent **B - Good** C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Many individuals, high percentage of material reproductive

EO Defensibility

Can this occurrence be protected from extrinsic human factors?

A - Excellent B - Good **C - Marginal** D - Poor

Comments: Land privately owned

EO RANK

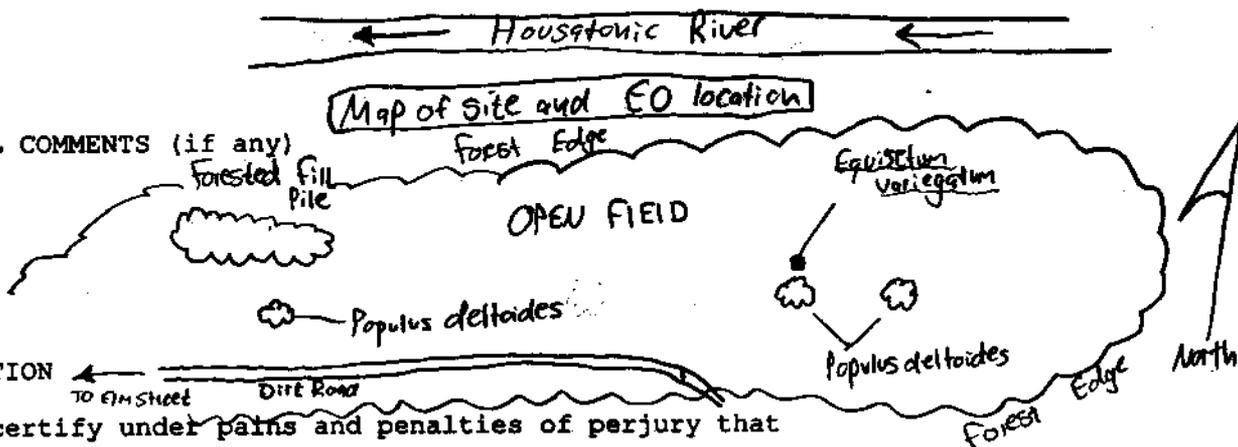
A summary of all factors listed above.

A - Excellent B - Good **C - Marginal** D - Poor

Comments:

Specimen to be deposited at the Harvard Herbaria.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (if any)



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: *Arthur Haines*

Date: 23 June 1999

Please submit form, a copy of a USGS topo map showing plant location, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:

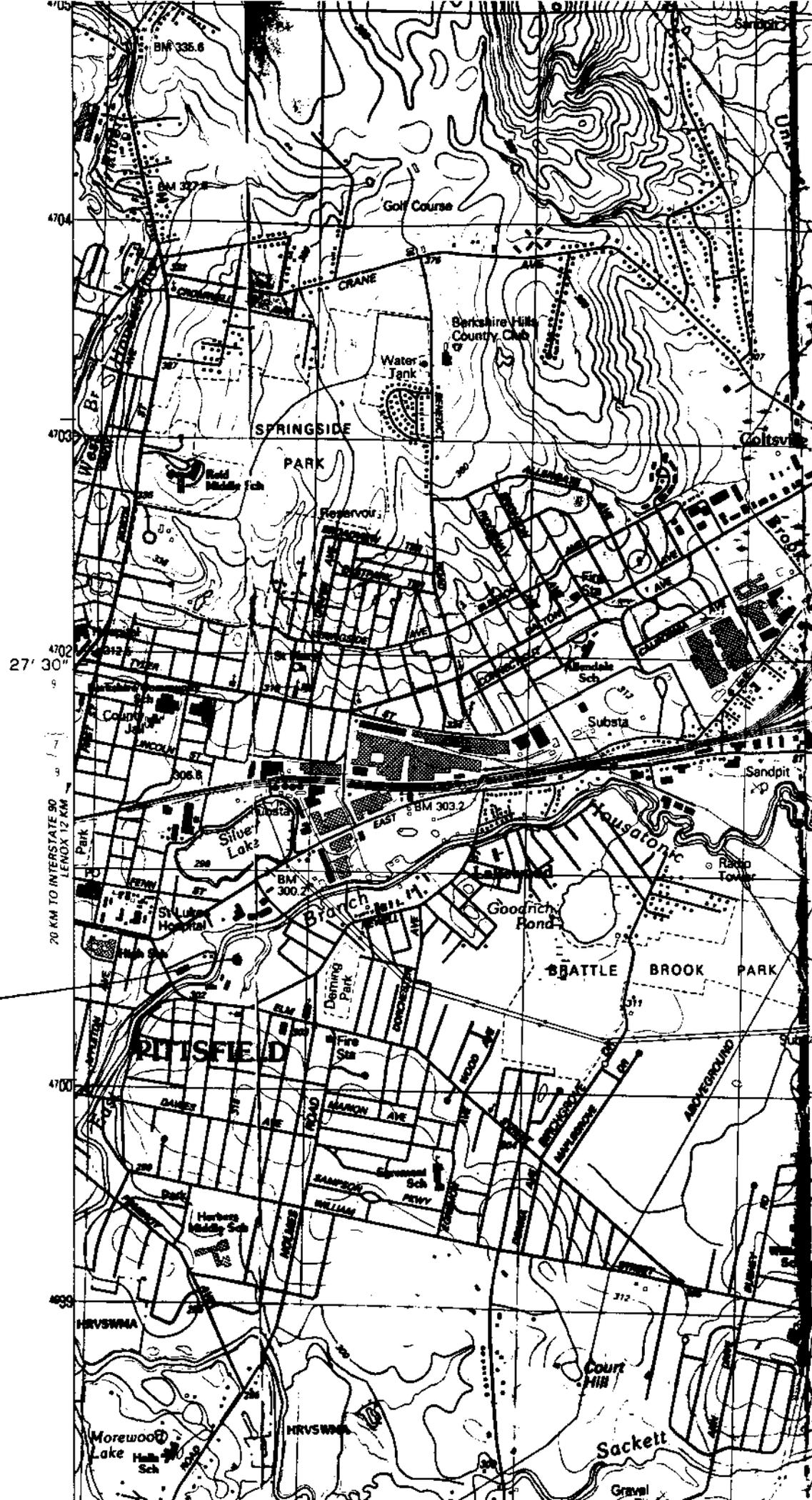
Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 108

Westborough, MA 01581

(508) 792-7270 ext 200

Thank you for contributing to the Natural Heritage &
Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are
valuable and appreciated.



Equisetum
variegatum

Pittsfield East
(1:25,000)

* -cobble/sand
bottom